

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a preparation ~~device method~~ for preparing polyester that is superior in mechanical properties and chemical properties.

Please replace paragraph 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention has been devised to solve the above-mentioned problems, and its objective is to provide a preparation ~~device method~~ of polyester which can prepare polymers having a high degree of polymerization efficiently using a simpler construction.

Please replace paragraphs 10 and 11 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--~~In other words, a~~ A preparation ~~device method~~ of polyester in accordance with claim 1 of the present invention, ~~which adds an organic solvent to a dicarboxylic acid and a diol so that the dicarboxylic acid and the diol are melt-polycondensed to prepare polyester, is provided with: a wherein said preparation method uses a preparation device comprising: a polycondensating reactor in which the dicarboxylic acid and the diol are polycondensed; under a normal pressure by adding a catalyst having a hydrophobic property thereto, and in this reactor, a separating device, which is attached to the reactor and which separates the organic solvent and water that are distilled from the reactor, while discharging the separated water outside the system and fluxing the organic solvent; is attached to the reactor and the dicarboxylic acid and diol are polycondensated under a normal pressure by adding a distannoxane as a catalyst.~~

--In this construction, in the above-mentioned polycondensating reactor, the melt-polycondensation reaction between the dicarboxylic acid and the diol progresses under the presence of ~~the distannoxane as~~ a hydrophobic catalyst, ~~such as a distannoxane catalyst, as disclosed in claim 2.~~ At this time, water, generated during the polycondensation, is captured in the organic solvent without re-approaching polyester that is generated through the reaction in the active center of the catalyst; therefore, it is possible to suppress the hydrolytic reaction of the generated polyester. Consequently, it is possible to allow the polycondensation to further progress even under a normal pressure.

Please replace paragraphs 14 and 15 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--In the preparation ~~device method~~ of polyester according to claim 3, which relates to the device of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, the polycondensating reactor is ~~an~~ a longitudinal-type reactor in which a stirrer, which maintains separated two-phase states having a phase consisting of a mixed solution containing the dicarboxylic acid, the diol and polyester to be generated and an organic solvent phase covering the other phase, and stirs the mixed solution, is installed.

--In this arrangement, the lower phase consisting of the dicarboxylic acid, the diol and polyester to be generated is only stirred on its bottom side, while the organic solvent is maintained in a

manner so as to cover this from above. Therefore, water generated during the polycondensation reaction is allowed to shift into the organic solvent located above, and distilled upward together with the organic solvent. Thus, dehydration of the generated water is smoothly carried out from the reactor, thereby making it possible to positively suppress the hydrolysis of the generated polyester, and consequently to carry out the polycondensation reaction more efficiently. Here the boiling point of the solvent is not less than the boiling point of the water or it has a boiling point not less than the melting point of generated polyester.

Please replace paragraph 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to Figures, the following description will discuss one embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 1 is a schematic view that shows the structure of a preparation ~~device~~ method in accordance with the present embodiment. In this Figure, reference number 1 represents a dissolving vessel and 2 represents a polycondensating reactor. An explanation will be given of these structures more specifically by exemplifying a sequence of processes in which a dicarboxylic acid and a diol are melt-polycondensated to prepare polyester.

Please replace paragraph 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The dissolving vessel 1 is provided as a longitudinal-type-stirring vessel with a generally-used stirring device having a vertical rotary shaft 1a and a stirring blade 1b. Here, in the preparation ~~device~~ method of the present embodiment, it is assumed that the polycondensation reaction is carried out in the presence of a catalyst having a hydrophobic property, ~~for example that is~~, a distannoxane catalyst which will be ~~described~~ described later. Therefore, the operation in the dissolving vessel 1 is carried out as follows: for example, a dicarboxylic acid is supplied through a pipe 3 while being stirred, and with this dicarboxylic acid being molten, a diol and the distannoxane catalyst are respectively added through pipes 4, 5, and dissolved in the dicarboxylic acid; alternatively, a diol and the distannoxane catalyst are supplied through the pipes 4, 5, and in a state where these are molten, the dicarboxylic acid is supplied through the pipe 3, and dissolved therein.

Please replace paragraph 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--With respect to a synthesizing catalyst for polyester used in this polycondensation, the catalyst having a hydrophobic property, ~~for example that is~~, distannoxane, is adopted as described above. In the formation of polyester by the polycondensation reaction between the dicarboxylic acid and the diol, in general, the other metal catalysts only reduce activating energy of the forward reaction and the reverse reaction, and give no effects on the equilibrium constant; in contrast, the distannoxane catalyst prevents the generation of a reverse reaction due to the presence of water in the reaction system, that is, the generation of hydrolysis. It is assumed that this effect is exerted by a two-layer structure of distannoxane. ~~In other words, for example, That is,~~ distannoxane is ~~represented by the following formula expressed, for example, in the equation (1):~~ I_2 .

Please replace paragraph 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this manner, the catalyst having a hydrophobic property, such as that is, distannoxane, is applied as a synthesizing catalyst for polyester in the polycondensation between a dicarboxylic acid and a diol so that it becomes possible to prevent water, generated during the formation of polyester as a side-product, from intervening the polycondensation, and consequently to allow the polycondensation reaction to progress even under a normal pressure in the polycondensating reactor 2 to produce polyester having a high degree of polymerization.

Please replace paragraph 59 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In Table 2, as indicated by the actual measured value by NMR, in comparison with Comparative Example, the polymer of Example 1 using distannoxane as a catalyst has a molecular structure that is free from C.dbd.C double bonds as well as branches. In other words, the polymer obtained by the preparation device method using the distannoxane catalyst is a high-quality polymer having a linear chain structure.